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THE OUTLOOK.

The event, during the past week, of highest interest to science lovers was the successful mounting of the gigantic Lick telescope in the observatory on Mt. Hamilton, Cal. It easily surpasses every other refracting telescope in the world in size. Its object glass was the consummate work of the late Alvan Clark, and now that he is dead, will not probably be duplicated within the present generation. Tidings from this new and far-sighted explorer of the heavenly bodies and spaces will be awaited with great interest.

No one can read even the merest abstract of the majority and minority reports of the Pacific railroads commission without sympathizing with Mr. Pattison's indignation and demand of "punishment of the criminals," though he might not concur in the recommendation that the charters of both roads be forfeited and a receiver be appointed. The investigations reveal a degree of profligacy and plunder that has scarcely a parallel. The figures are simple enough: The actual cost of constructing the lines—the Central and Union Pacific—was less than \$60,000,000; the government bonds and lands advanced were something less than \$100,000,000. By this time, had the roads been honestly managed, the debt to the government might have been nearly, if not entirely, paid. As it is, the government has not been paid, and the companies (one of them practically bankrupt) are capitalized at more than \$200,000,000.

One illustration may be cited of the manner in which the business was conducted: The dividends of the Central Pacific from Jan. 1, 1874, to Jan. 1, 1884, aggregated \$34,308,055. This was all paid to the stockholders—that is, to Messrs. Huntington, Hopkins, Stanford and Crocker—who held the bulk of the stock; but nothing was done to reimburse the government, though the latter was paying interest on the debt of the road. Moreover, the capital stock on which these dividends were paid, was largely fictitious. The principal recommendations of the majority report will probably be accepted by Congress: That the period of paying the debt be extended to fifty years; that the government shall receive a formal mortgage of the roads, branch lines and all; that the debt shall be funded at three per cent. interest payable semi-annually, with a sinking fund of one-half of one per cent. to provide for the payment of the debt; and that the companies shall employ the Department of Justice to prosecute those who have defrauded them and secure restitution.

The relations between the Quirinal and the Vatican were not improved by the late papal jubilee. Rather they have become more tense than ever. The Pope, it seems, declined to accept the gifts of the Italian royal household—sent them back, indeed, because they came from a dynasty which has deprived the Holy See of its temporal power. King Humbert, of course, feels affronted, and his indignation has found a vent. The mayor of Rome, the Duke of Torlonia, who ventured to pay an official visit to the Pope's representative and convey to him the congratulations of the city, has been removed from office. The breach has widened, and so long as the Pope continues to intrigue for temporal power, there seems to be no hope of reconciliation.

Some idea of the rapid subversion of the natives in the Congo region to the new commercial enterprises that are invading that district, may be gained from the fact that whereas Stanley could scarcely muster fifty native helpers when he tried to open a road around the cataracts to Stanley Pool, there are now thousands enlisted as porters. During the months of last summer, to quote the figures of the New York Sun, 5,897 carriers left Matadi, at the head of navigation on the lower river, with loads for the Pool. Their freight has consisted chiefly of the parts of two new steamboats, one belonging to the Congo State and the other to a railroad company. As recruiting stations have been established at favorable points and large numbers are enlisting, and Caffres from South Africa are hastening to the spot, there is reason to believe that Bishop Taylor's steamboat will not much longer be left on the banks of the lower Congo for lack of transportation facilities.

The Turkish authorities have entered upon a foolish crusade against foreign schools in their empire. The animus of the attack is evidently antichristian, for one section of the new law requires that schools supported by foreigners shall abstain entirely from religious instruction on pain of being suppressed. Further, no Ottoman subject will be permitted to attend a foreign school unless he has been previously indoctrinated in his own faith. To prevent the opening of new schools by outsiders, the right to give permission is retained in the Sultan's hand. The U. S. minister at Constantinople has promptly protested against this arbitrary enactment, basing his protest, it is said, upon the amount of capital invested, and previous governmental permission, in these schools. Other ministers will, without doubt, follow his example.

The French continue to gain power in the Pacific. Their last acquisition in the Wallis group—a dozen pretty islets not far from the Pijis (for a long time, therefore, the object of English cupidity), and ruled over by an elderly maiden—Queen Amelia. It is hinted that the French carried their point and won their prize by a course of religious intrigue. They sent their missionaries there to prepare the ground. These soon gained the esteem of the dusky ruler and were appointed her counselors. Though bitterly opposed to white man's rule, as illustrated in the neighboring Pijis, she succumbed at last to the persuasions of the priests, and formally requested a French protectorate. Under the velvet glove she will

71 years. — Union Church, St. Louis, has a membership of 816, with a Sunday-school enrollment of 580.

Arkansas. — Rev. Dr. A. R. Winfield, editor of the *Arkansas Methodist*, died suddenly at his home in Little Rock last week. Only ten days before, he attended the Mississippi Conference in good health.

Wisconsin. — In a special work at Waukesha, thirty-eight were forward at the altar and eight joined the church by letter. — Among the bequests made by the late Mr. T. B. Scott, of Merrill, was one of \$3,000 to the Woman's Educational Aid Society of Evanston. Sufficient sums are also bequeathed to build a new church at Merrill, and to remove the church at Grand Rapids, and for a memorial window in the latter. It was Mrs. Scott who made the anonymous gift of \$500 to put in the library cases in Memorial Hall at Evanston in memory of Dr. Hemenway.

Michigan. — Rev. J. M. Fuller of Detroit Conference, who completed his sixtieth year in the ministry Dec. 27, was tendered a reception by Cass Avenue Church, Detroit, to celebrate the event.

Illinois. — The new church at South Evanston is called "Homenway Church," after the late Professor Hemenway. — The Methodist preachers in their Monday meeting at Chicago, Dec. 19, considered as their subject, "The Sermon as a Work of Art." President Ridgeway, who read an essay, holds to the good-old-fashioned doctrine that the real use of sermons is to persuade men to quit sin and do righteousness. — First Church, Chicago, is very prompt. The congregations morning and evening are large. The membership is thoroughly alive and at work, and conversions are numerous. Thirty-six have been received into full connection and fifty on probation since Conference. Dr. H. W. Bolton, the pastor, at the request of one hundred leading business men of the city, conducts a noonday prayer-meeting in the church.

Ohio. — By the will of the late Mr. James Banks, of Birmingham, the Church Extension and Foreign Missionary boards are to receive \$5,000 each. The residue, after these and other bequests are paid, is to go to the Home Missionary Society. — The Methodist Episcopal Church has twenty-eight congregations in Cincinnati. Twenty-two of these are English-speaking churches and six are German; twenty-six of them are white, and two are among the negro people. — Trinity Church, of which Rev. Louis Albert Banks is pastor, has employed Rev. Elia Nethorpe for the next seven months as a pastor's assistant, who, under the direction of the pastor, will devote his entire time to visitation from house to house. A large number from the young people's association of the church are to be trained in conjunction with, and under the direction of, the assistant pastor. Prof. Christian Bellisted, the popular concertist, has been added to the choir, and will not only assist in the chorus singing, but furnish concertos every Sunday evening.

Mississippi. — The money reported at the Mississippi Conference for foreign and domestic missions, not including what was raised by the Women's Aid Society, was about \$5,200 in excess of last year.

North Carolina. — In the revival at the M. E. Church in Asheville, fifty-four conversions from the beginning of the number last reported.

District of Columbia. — Rev. John H. Dasheill, D. D., pastor of 15th St. Church, Washington, has been ill for a couple of weeks. His charge is in a hopeful and prosperous condition. The Sabbath-school has now on roll 320 scholars.

Maryland. — Dr. S. Emory Round, professor in the Centenary Biblical Institute, is lying seriously at the Maryland State Asylum, near Catonsville. Prof. Round was recently suddenly attacked with a brain malady resulting from overwork. He was taken to a private asylum for rest and treatment, and afterward transferred to the above institution. — Rev. Joseph F. Spangler, M. D., a supernumerary member of the Baltimore Conference of the M. E. Church, South, died suddenly at his home in Baltimore, last week.

Pennsylvania. — The Philadelphia Orphanage will cost \$70,000, and will be one of the best in the country. — Trinity Church, Philadelphia, is being rapidly pushed towards completion. The audience-room, amphitheatre in form, will afford seating room for 1,200, and will be connected with the chapel, so that the two can be thrown into one. The cost of the improvement will be \$130,000. — The new Park Avenue Church, Philadelphia, has a front of one hundred feet on one side, and extends westward about the same distance. A steeple 128 feet in height, of stone, surmounted with a tower of red tile, crowns the building. The church will cost when completed \$25,000.

New Jersey. — A great revival has blessed Branchport. One hundred and forty gave in their names as seekers. — Rev. M. J. Cramer, D. D., at 40 Prospect St., East Orange, has prepared three lectures, which he is ready to deliver on reasonable terms. The lectures are entitled: 1. "What Does Our Country Require of its Young Men?" 2. "The Dangers that Threaten our Literature, and How to Avert Them." 3. "The Influence of Theology on Science and Philosophy."

Science and Philosophy. — From the statistics reported to twenty of the Annual Conferences, which we have been able to obtain, we discover there has been in these Conferences a total net increase of 24,442 members during the year 1887. From estimates made upon imperfect data from the remaining Conferences we calculate the net increase in the membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the current ecclesiastical year, will be not less than 45,000 souls. Last year it was 75,385, a phenomenally successful year. — *Nashville Christian Advocate*.

Minneapolis. — Delano and Rockford, from four weeks meetings, received seventy-five probation and four by letter. — Rev. C. D. Pillsbury, of Minneapolis, has a surprise party recently on the occasion of his 70th birthday. A party gathered at his residence, including Bishop and Mrs. Foss, and presented him with a dollar for every year of his life—seventy in all. — Minnesota State Methodism is to have a convention at Central Park Church, St. Paul, March 27-29. Lay representation will be on the basis of one in fifty. All members of Annual Conferences, Engle, Norwegian, Danish, and Germans, are members. The convention will open with a banquet, and will devote itself to current questions nearly or remotely affecting our church interests. — Rev. Dr. S. G. Smith, pastor of First Church, St. Paul, has withdrawn from the ministry of the M. E. Church on account of the itinerancy. Bishop Foss has appointed Rev. F. O. Holman, of Minneapolis, to the vacant pastorate.

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Miscellaneous.

BISHOP TAYLOR'S MISSIONS IN AFRICA.

BY REV. E. DAVIES.

THE Christian public will be glad to learn that the rumors of Mr. J. C. Waller in relation to Bishop Taylor's missions are but taken at a great discount.

He says that during the eight months he and his family spent in Africa, he and his son had the fever so many times. I know not how many times they had the fever, but I have found that they did not reach the Congo River till the last of May, 1887, and they were back in America in the latter part of December of the same year, so that they were not in Africa much more than five months, as it takes about two months to return. Why not tell the truth?

A letter from Mr. Waller states that they were located in Africa on thirty-three acres of land, and had the promise of cattle from Angola from Bishop Taylor; that adobe was being made to build them a house, and other provisions were made for them. But, alas! these are facts that Bishop Taylor reports, that Mr. Waller will not care to have known. He writes from Vivi, on the Congo River, Oct. 12, 1887. I quote from the *Christian Witness*:

"The Wallers have gone back on our hands (you will see the business in the enclosed letters). He would have got us into diplomatic trouble in Brussels, and at Washington. We had to get rid of them quickly. I determined to send them to England without further delay, and Bro. Critchlow concurred in that. But, as Mr. Waller would not go, he would so scandalize us among our friends in Liverpool, that I saw that it would be better to land him among his friends in America, and so ordered and took his note for the whole amount. I would sell books if, necessary to get rid of such people at any cost."

So Mr. W. was sent home because he could be endured no longer.

Meanwhile the good work in Africa is still going on well. Bishop Taylor says:

"We have built, under the direction of dear Bro. Critchlow, a telegraph line that hauls up those crooked, steep roads one hundred miles at a time. We have meanwhile opened and manned five new stations from here to Isangola, fifty-five miles. We have bought the site of Vivi, the recent capital of the State, for £160—four buildings, and over seven acres of land. At Isangola we occupy the government house, rent free. At Tomba Vivi, we have built an adobe house 12x24 feet—three rooms and added a good veranda on all sides. We did the same at Metama. No cash costs but for the roof. I made the adobes. Bros. Arlingdale and Lauder did the plastering. We built a good home at Sadi Kabanza and a grange house. Adobe is the thing for this country, cheap, comfortable, and enduring."

The traction engine had arrived in Africa, and a civil engineer, with competent men, is appointed to carry the steamer to Kimpoko as soon as the rainy season closes. The steamer will be launched in the spring at Stanley Pool, and Bro. Critchlow said the traction engine will be the best steamer on the Congo River."

So the steamer is not a wreck, as Mr. Waller says. It is well cared for, and will do honor to the church it represents, to the generous public who gave so freely for its purchase, and to Annie Taylor, the wife of the self-sacrificing and misunderstood Bishop Taylor, many years after his defamers are sunk out of sight.

Bishop Taylor writes from the Congo:

"Our people are well and happy. We had our class-meeting to-night, and a blessed season it was. We have spent no money in opening the five missions on the north bank of the Congo except for purchase at Vivi. The cash value of \$33 for three houses on this line was in cloth."

Richard Grant writes from New York to the *Christian Witness*:

"Practical people make their living in Africa with ease. Our missionaries are contented. There are eighty of them there now. We have nineteen now on the reserve list waiting the call to go. Two of them are women physicians from Chicago. We have applications from nearly a hundred others."

Bishop Taylor says: "God is leading and glorifying Himself in our detention." Pray for him, and "have faith in God" and the salvation of Africa, and be sure you do your part in this great work!

JOTTINGS IN THE ALLEGHANIES.

BY REV. DANIEL DORCHESTER, D. D.

III.

BY the advice of friends who eulogized the rare scenery of the Alleghanies where they border upon East Tennessee and North Carolina, I concluded to return home from Knoxville via Salisbury, N. C., 275 miles due east from the former place. This took me through the Alleghanies by day, the mountain ranges occupying about 120 miles of the way. The first fifty miles, through Morristown and beyond, before the mountains are reached, is one of the most fertile regions in Tennessee, and is occupied by an excellent class of people.

Our route soon becomes serpentine, the only one feasible for crossing the mountains. For a long distance we follow closely upon the bank of the French-Broad river, which rises in Transylvania County, North Carolina, makes its way through the mountain divide, and empties into the Tennessee about four miles from Knoxville. High mountain peaks look down upon us on each side. There are the Smoky Mountains, partly concealed by fog, the tall and distinct pinnacle of Great Pisgah, 6,700 feet in height, the graceful outlines of the Newfoundland Mountains showing many beautiful peaks, and the grand and impressive Balsam Mountains capped by the symmetrical cone of Cold Mountain, 6,300 feet high. In the midst of the Alleghanies stands the "Black Mountain" range, in Yancey County, so called from the dark color of the balsam fir that covers most of the highest peaks, giving them a peculiar dark tint. The Blue Ridge here reaches its highest elevation, though the Linville Mountains, to the eastward and nearly parallel, are among the loftiest of the outlying ridges. Altogether this is probably the most remarkable spot in the system of the Atlantic Slope. Mt. Mitchell, the highest peak of this range, is a little higher than Mt. Washington in New Hampshire, reaching an altitude of 6,711 feet—the highest land east of the Rocky Mountains. Parties visiting its summit need three days for a full enjoyment of the trip, with warm clothing, etc. Asheville is the point from which it is reached, a thriving village with cotton manufactures and abounding in good hotels. Thirteen of the mountain peaks

along this line exceed 6,000 feet in height, and four others exceed 5,000 feet.

Through the divide among these mountains the railroad makes its way, on the Tennessee side following directly on the bank of the French-Broad river, high ranges impinging directly upon the narrow stream, across which in some places a biscuit could be easily tossed to the mountain on the other side. Here and there are rifts between the mountains, opening vistas bristling with wildness, and disclosing other mountains with bluish or cloud-capped peaks in the distance.

Many interesting natural curiosities are met all along the route. One of the first is where we enter the mountain region—perpendicular palisades directly on the river, bold rocky outcrops, in successive tiers. Further on is "Painted Rock" (Indian *Unaka*), with strata narrow and seamy, a broken, chippy flint, with fantastic reddish colors. Near by is Lover's Leap, from whose eminence can be seen a country unsurpassed for loveliness, wildness, and pastoral beauty. Six miles from Wolf Creek station, back from the railroad, is Bluff Mt., sometimes called Campbell's Peak, 5,600 feet high. A physician who had visited it said to us: "It is destined to be of great value. It is an immense mass of superior solid granite, unusually hard, variegated in color, susceptible of high polish, and wonderfully beautiful." Close by its side runs a rapid stream with a succession of waterfalls, within the space of one mile, varying from ten feet to sixty feet each in height; and in that wild region, not far from the base of this mountain, is a broad, fertile plateau, once a lake bottom, now a farm of rare productiveness.

Ninety-two miles this side of Knoxville, we come to the Hot Springs, a place of great resort. Here is an elegant hotel, with bathing-houses, well fitted up. The place aspires to be a Baden-Baden—in the better sense, we hope. The springs are literally warm pools, rising to the surface near the river, ranging from 102 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Persons wading in the river find places where the water is perceptibly warmer than in the general bed. The waters are used not only for bathing, but also internally, having a diuretic influence, beneficial to rheumatism, gout, and kidney disease. Last year, while digging to enlarge the baths, a cave was disclosed, of unfathomable depth, full of warm water. An intelligent physician in this region related to us. Geological theories, attempting to explain the locality and its formations, are freely given, seriously straining both our faith and imagination. But the region is a desirable summer resort, 1,325 feet above the sea-level, a beautiful valley in the midst of the mountain ranges, 182 miles west of Salisbury.

Leaving Hot Springs, we pass through a narrow gorge, the track way hewn out of the solid mountain side, a river twenty feet deep running just below, and the opposite bank within a stone's throw. We have already found the grade of the road steep in many places—often 90 to 100 feet to a mile, and sometimes 120 feet. Our way of travel often shifts its direction, sometimes like going around a horseshoe, sometimes like a loop and withal of steep ascent, the mountains presenting continually changing appearances, from the different points of view, so that we are liable to become bewildered and lose all idea of the points of compass.

The most remarkable part of the route is between Swannanoa Gap and Old Fort—fourteen miles—presenting one of the most remarkable achievements of civil engineering in the world. Our line of travel twists, turns, and doubles on itself, until we hardly know whether we are advancing at all. Looking up, we see high above us the track over which we have just passed, and turning our eyes downward we see the threadlike track over which we are yet to pass, several hundred feet below, and yet far away if it were lifted to a level with that on which we are passing. With short curves, we round jutting promontories of rock, run through deep cuts, along ridges and over trestles. Below we see depths from which we shrink, and above lofty altitudes of wooded mountain-sides. In the short space of seven miles the elevation to be overcome is so great that in order to maintain a uniform grade of 120 feet to a mile, the road makes a detour into the mountains, performing some astounding gyrations in curves and cuttings, winding around spurs, climbing steep slopes, charming views of mountain and valley continually presenting themselves.

When we come in sight of Round Knob Hotel, we find ourselves within a fourth of a mile of it, though at least four hundred feet above it. The engineers found it necessary to run the road six miles around from ridge to ridge, through cuts and over lofty trestles, turning the track upon itself, passing under culverts, until the track way, if level, would look like a loop rope overlying itself. At one point our track is 125 feet above the track soon to be passed, but if the lower track were raised to our level, it would not be sixty feet away; and at another point we are sixty feet above another curve below. The work here has been immense. Yet what are the works of the civil engineers but pigmy play-houses compared with the majestic heights which look down from above! How appropriate the fountain near the Round Knob Hotel that throws up a perpendicular jet of pure mountain water 268 feet, like an ascription of praise to the Creator of these majestic mountain classes of people.

The question, then, is simply this: How shall these persons, recognized by the church as having been divinely called to a special separation of themselves to the special work of the Christian ministry, find, each, his respective field of labor? How shall this ministry be distributed? The importance of this question, to the comfort and usefulness of the ministry, to the prosperity of the churches, to the good of the redeemed race, and, hence, to the glory of God, cannot be overestimated. It demands a far more extended consideration than the present occasion affords.

In this most difficult part of the mountains are seven tunnels, all in a distance of ten miles, ranging from 60 feet to 1,800 feet in length, three of them through solid rock of the sternest and most unyielding character. The longest has occasioned the railroad company much trouble, being partly of earth and partly rock, but is now being rapidly put beyond the possibility of danger. It is called the Swannanoa, from the name of the river near by, which means, "nymph of beauty."

The railroad company have several gangs of convicts employed on the road in repairs. They are hard-looking fellows, all black, hired from the State at \$125 a year for each one. Officers with rifles stand guard.

Asheville, 2,250 feet above sea level, 145 miles west of Salisbury, is in the Black Mountain range, in a charming valley, with a gentle, bracing climate—a favorite resort in summer, and also in winter. It has four or five hotels, numerous boarding-houses, several

fine churches, and well-organized schools. Some of the residences are elegant. It is 756 miles from New York, or twenty-seven hours' ride. Its average temperature in January is recorded at 38 degrees, and in July and August about 71 degrees. Thirteen mountains peak all around, within easy reach, pierce the clouds at an altitude higher than that of Mt. Washington.

We labor, and are heavy-laden. Where shall we find rest unto our souls? We bleed the people earth, and move in pain and weep. The people earth, but cannot rest there. What went we out into this desert land? O Human life, to see? The greenest reed is Love, unrighteous for our sinmost need. And shaken with the wind of our despair.

A voice from heaven like dew on Harmon fall eth. That voice who palest the olive leaf in the dusk aisles, Gethsemane, thou blest Of gardens. "The Man of Sorrows calleth, The Man of Sorrows and acquaint with grief, Come unto Me, and I will give you rest."

—Katherine Lee Bates.

Temperance.

"The Saloon in Politics."

The January *Chautauquan* contains a valuable symposium of opinions on this subject, prefaced by an earnest and judicious editorial paragraph. We select a few sentences from the different letters, hoping that they will lead our readers to procure and read the whole collection.

—It has learned the efficacy of thorough organization. It is absolutely unscrupulous in the use of money, and poising as the advocate of "personal liberty," it cleverly steals the livery of heaven in which to serve the devil. Already, it owns legislatures, unless resisted, it will own legislatures; and a multitude of criminal, lawless, out-and-about, adolesecent houses, degrades manhood, multiplies criminality, lawlessness, and all kinds of houses, on the road to such a position of unscrupulous power that already in great cities, we see it attempting to dictate the policy of parties and to name our judges, sheriffs, district attorneys, and all others who make or administer the laws. —Bishop H. C. Potter.

—The lowest wards of our great cities the saloon is often made the voting station of the precinct where pothouse politicians, ballot stuffers, and pugilists do mostly congregate, hold high revelry, and play their infernal arts. It is as much as the life of a respectable citizen is worth to cast an honest vote against the dictation of this desperate band of terrorists. The saloon is the Ku-Klux Klan of the North, and an equally deadly Ku-Klux Klan of the South, to the purity and freedom of the ballot. —Dr. A. H. Livermore.

—The word of one liquor-seller has more weight with the average political manager than of five respectable merchants or ten ministers or teachers. —Dr. W. Gladden.

—My judgment there is no other evil in our politics comparable with the liquor power. It is to-day a menace to the public, little less grave than was slavery thirty years ago. It is the deadly foe to all that is sacred in free institutions. It destroys the home, and desecrates the ballot. It is the chief cause, and instrument, of political corruption. —Ex-Senator Wm. Windom.

—You may bribe a man with gold, or honors, or office, and we pass this form of the crime with more or less reprobation. But to influence the voter by holding to his lips the cup of darkness is beyond comparison the lowest of all forms of bribery. Now take into account the power of this seduction when the appetite for strong drink has been established, and we will find that practically it amounts to an absolute ownership of the voter's suffrage. We have no doubt overlooked the wicked power of alcohol as a factor in almost every popular election held in the country. —Senator A. H. Colquitt.

—To-day the vast net-work of dens where apportion and avow administer to these mutual bad influences, is wrapped around the political parties of the United States like a shirt of Nessus woven out of red-hot wire. . . . Preceding the presidential election of 1884, there were held in New York city one thousand political conventions—congressional, assembly, aldermanic, and primary, etc. In these political conventions the members of the various political parties of the city were elected to the Legislature.

—At the time of the election of 1884, there were 3,000 saloons, two saloons, ninety-three of them were open sport, six saloons, ninety-six next door to saloons, and six hundred thirty-three in saloons.

—It is indeed true, that for purposes of information he may have recourse to what may well be supposed to be a well-informed corps of presiding elders—men appointed to the office by the bishop, and officially responsible to him alone. The presiding bishop is accused of making the appointments in the hands of the bishop that is designated, by the Board of Bishops, to preside over one session of the Conference—the Conference, as such, having no voice in the selection; and with our present large number of Conferences and bishops, the bishop assigned to a Conference may be wholly unacquainted with both ministers and churches composing it.

—The making of these assignments, as it is easy to see, involves the most delicately important—even vital—interests, alike of ministers and churches. This is often very paltry and easily realized by the administrator, as well as by the subjects of the administration. It certainly seems a tremendous responsibility to place in the hands of one man, be he ever so strong and wise and good.

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ZION'S HERALD, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1888.

Magazines and Periodicals.

The *Pulpit Treasury* for January is a full and helpful number. The strong face of Rev. C. D. W. Bridgeman, D. D., looks out from the frontispiece, followed by one of his sermons on "Service the Purpose of the Church," and, farther on, by a picture of his church—the Madison Avenue Baptist, of New York city—and a sketch of his life. The various departments of Exegetical Comment, Leading Thoughts of Sermons, etc., are well sustained. Price, \$2.50; to clergymen, \$2. E. B. Treat, 771 Broadway, New York.

The *Art Amateur* for January is a brimming and a handsome number. All its numerous departments—"My Notes Book," "Art in Boston," "The Cabinet," "The Gallery," "The House," "The Atelier," "China Painting," "Amateur Photography," "The Needle," "Old Books and New"—are filled with valuable matter and suggestions. Its frontispieces—"Fan Decoration"—its seven supplement designs and choice colored plate (Coast Scene, by H. W. Rauser) are themselves worth far more than the price of the number. Montague Marks, 23 Union Square, New York. Single number, 35 cents; \$4 a year.

Woman's World, for January, edited by Oscar Wilde, has for its frontispiece an emblematic cut, entitled "The Young Knight," drawn by Walter Crane. Seven articles, many of them illustrated, by the following writers: "The Author of 'John Halifax, Gentleman,'" the Countess of Meath, Mrs. Campbell Pined, Miss A. Mary F. Robinson, Mrs. Charles McLaren, Geo. Fleming, and S. W. Beck, all on subjects of high interest to women, and to men also, constitute the body of the number. The editor's "Literary and Other Notes" are copious and interesting. The intellectual standard is high, and the style and shape of the magazine exceedingly attractive. Cassell & Company, Limited; 35 cents per number; \$3 per year.

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first six months of the pastor. At the First Baptist N. H., shows an increase of

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[Entered at the Post-office, Boston, Mass., as second-class matter.]

Zion's Herald.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11, 1888.

Prize Offers.

1. For the best short article, not to exceed 800 words, on any practical subject of present interest, the sum of \$20 will be paid, and \$10 for the second-best.

2. For the best story, adapted to our columns, not to exceed 2,500 words in length, \$30 will be paid, and \$15 for the second-best.

The time limit in both cases will be Feb. 8. Committees will be selected to decide on the merits of the articles submitted, and to award the prizes.

Articles and stories should be addressed: "Editorial Department, ZION'S HERALD, Boston, Mass." They should be left unsigned, or some fictitious name should be used. A sealed envelope containing the name of the article or story and the true name and address of the writer, should be enclosed, with stamps for return.

THE REACTION FROM SOCIALISM.

The economical questions of modern society will for some time command great attention, and often break out into explosions of feeling. One office of religious journalism is to temper and soften the asperities of discussion on these subjects. The Christian of our day cannot admit that all human progress has ended — that the present competitive order and its evils are the last and best result of Christianity. Nor, on the other hand, can a wise Christian make haste to believe that any given plan of reform is the way out. Georgeism, Powderlyism, Hyndmanism, and other theories of a changed social organization, must face the world and conquer it if they are to reign. Nobody is bound to accept them as a new gospel of social redemption. If they are right, the thumping of controversy will not kill them.

At this moment there is evidently a reaction going on. A great change has come over the country in twelve months. A year ago socialism was far more popular than it is now. The Chicago hangings of bomb-throwers, and the lessened vote of the Georgites in New York, and the conflicts in the organization of the Knights of Labor, are both causes and effects of changed feeling. We are not going to rush into an economically-reformed world.

In this reaction we may detect two great and hopeful facts. The repudiation of violence as a method of social reform is most conspicuous. The bomb and the boycott are suppressed, and will stay suppressed. Perhaps we may add the industrial mob to the list of forbidden methods. In several recent cases the disorderly striker has not appeared to ruin the cause of honest strikers. The reaction will probably go on until the rights of "the scab" are as sacred in public opinion as those of the striker or the trade-unionist.

The method of some social reformers has been radical in the extreme. Mr. Hyndman, for example, the leader of the English social-democracy, has recently suggested that proprietors of mills and other property are no longer necessary. He thinks the men can run the mills and railroads. But Mr. Hyndman must prove it so plainly that the people will see it; and how else can it be done but by the success of headless corporations of industry? Let the experimenting be furnished in such abundance as to cripple and destroy the "idle owners." "Prove all things," even the righteousness of economic reform.

Mr. Powderly has tried to organize skilled and unskilled labor for common protection, and the ideal of it is seductively beautiful. But the skilled man has had to bear too great a burden in carrying the unskilled man on his shoulders; and the good man is similarly crushed under the weight of the bad man. Laborers cannot make common cause with each other irrespective of skill or character.

Mr. George has not convinced the

majority that his premises are sound, but he has convinced them that his conclusion is barren and impotent. "Premise: land-ownership is a violation of natural rights. Conclusion: revise your American taxation." The courage of a larger and worthier conclusion would probably command a larger party of supporters.

The reaction has been promoted by the open or covert attacks on our religion, and by unwise attempts to combine Christianity with "reform." Of the last, Mr. H. O. Pentecost's failure in Newark, N. J., is a warning example. The brilliant New York priest has fared even worse. The logic of it need not be misread. Christianity is in the deepest sympathy with the professed object of all social reformers — they profess to seek the well-being of the poor. So does Christ and His Gospel. But it is one thing to "care for the poor," and another thing to approve of doubtful methods of relief. Prove that yours is the right way to the end; we already know that "your heart is in the right place."

The atheism of the anarchists does not reproach other socialist movements. But an effort has been made to array labor against religion, and to cultivate atheism along with strange, or at least new, social doctrines — to the great damage of the doctrines. It must not be forgotten that the immense majority of American workmen are attendants, if not members, of Christian churches. It is only in the large cities that considerable bodies of atheistic workmen are found. In the country and in the smaller towns the men who, like Paul, work with their own hands, are for the greater part partners with Paul in the faith of Christ Jesus. The reaction has tightened the grasp of Christianity on the toiling millions. Socialism has its future — but it must be a Christian socialism.

ROME EVER THE SAME.

His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, has just been celebrating the jubilee of his priesthood. This would naturally be supposed to be an occasion of spiritual import, burdened with deeply spiritual anxieties. But the chief burden of desire on the part of the Pope and his votaries seems to be the restoration of the temporal power.

Cardinal Manning, who is too good a logician not to know better, compares the Pope's situation to Queen Victoria's, with Windsor Castle taken away from her, shut up in Buckingham Palace, with the privilege of driving out in the parks and streets of London; and says that every Englishman's reply would be, "No! her foot will never pass your thresholds till we see your backs."

But Rome is not suffering from foreign domination. It is the Italian people who possess Italy; and an Italian monarch, with a constitutional government, rules the country, under laws enacted by the representatives of the people — laws which secure to the Pope the same rights with all other citizens. There is, therefore, no propriety in the Cardinal's comparison.

Yet the Cardinals holds that the Pope is the rightful monarch of Rome. But why is he to be so considered? He claims to be the "vicegerent of Christ." But Christ distinctly said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

This man of the Tiber — not content with ecclesiastical sway over millions of people — wants to reign as a temporal monarch, to have his soldiers, armed with the latest rifles, his artillery, his drums and banners. He is dying by inches for lack of temporal authority. "Sweet prospects, sweet birds and sweet flowers, have all lost their sweetness" to him; because he cannot have a temporal kingdom, and send his ambassadors to royal courts with arrogant messages as aforesome.

He insists upon calling himself a prisoner, although he is as free to go anywhere as any other man in Italy; and Cardinal Manning insists that nobody shall laugh at him because he calls himself a prisoner. Still the world refuses to recognize any grievous oppression in the case. His spiritual authority ought to be enough to satisfy the ambition of one man — it is a great deal more than belongs to him by any right, natural or divine.

Never was the right to direct in the temporal affairs of nations, to decide upon the proper education of the young, to hold the reins generally over all mankind, more insisted upon by this arrogant usurper than now. The world has had enough of his temporal power, and wants to see no return of it. United Italy is well satisfied with the present arrangement, and will continue to collect taxes of the Pope, and to secure to him the protection of her just laws. With this it were well for him to be content.

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hurry and crowd and dig for worldly honor and riches, but when you seek eternal life with a crown and a throne, with lagging step and silent tongue drag and dawdle along. Out upon such stupid folly! Oh, for earnestness in religious effort, like the worldly enthusiasm which makes Wall Street a menseger, and every great city a vast machine of perpetual motion.

May not our young people's societies find a fitting field for effort in illustrating the needful fervor of religious zeal? If the young converts were all to become apostles of holy enthusiasm, what a reformation would be wrought in religious life! Their youthful zeal has not yet caught rheumatic stiffness, nor shivered to backsidden imbecility. The air still pulses with their play-ground shouts of yesterday. The tumultuous heart-throb of divine joy begotten by their Savior's smile, has not yet withdrawn its ripple from their bright and happy faces. Sisters and brothers of youthful hearts, and gleaming eyes, pour forth your newfound joy in eloquent speech and melody divine. As you sing and shout and pray, the withered and stiffened joys of older saints which have been closely wrapped and hidden away under lock and key as precious but antique bric-a-brac, will glow and throb and expand with forgotten vigor. Your enthusiastic faith will fan the cold embers of spiritual zeal until they will glow and gleam and consume the white ashes under which they have smoldered. The religious experience which was but a fragmentary relic kept for special display upon stated occasions, will become an hourly source of light and heat and power in the revived and aggressive church.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Breadth and Looseness. — Some people think they are doing a great and noble thing if they can broaden out, and cover a large space with what they have to say. This may do if they have anything to say that is worth saying; but this broadening often a loose way of spreading something which is of no value; it is done for vain show. The *Sunday School Times* hits off such as indulge in this looseness as follows: "Many a man counts himself broad merely because he is loose. Holding no opinions with positiveness, he thinks that his theological prowess is the result of his breadth of view, when it is really the result of his looseness. True breadth in religious opinions is desirable; but mere looseness in religious opinions is not to any man's credit. A man with a clear head can take firm steps along a straight line in a broad avenue, or across the broadest open fields; but a man with a confused brain will stagger from one side of the street to the other, even in a contracted alley. Before you pride yourself on being a broad Christian, be sure that you observe the distinction between breadth and looseness."

A Tardy Honor. — The proposed memorial to Henry Wilson.

The Memorial Association which bears his name are asking for contributions from the common people. It is hoped \$50,000 may be collected — a sum too small to perpetuate the remembrance of a man so truly great. Only we do not like the idea of the memorial being erected in Natick. Natick has reason to be proud of Henry Wilson, and naturally desires that his monument should stand within his precincts, but the great Senator belonged to Massachusetts, to the whole country indeed; but the appropriate place, it seems to us, would be somewhere within the shadow of the State House, somewhere near the statue of Charles Sumner, on the Public Garden.

Will it Pass? — The bill before Congress, introduced by Mr. Platt in the Senate, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors in the District of Columbia? The ladies of the W. C. T. U. are behind it. Quite likely this bill is only the entering wedge for the national prohibitory amendment. Senators Palmer, Colquitt and Reagan can probably be counted upon in its support. But the real opposition will be met, not so much in the Senate, as in the House. A select committee on the Alcoholic Liquor Traffic has been appointed, and to it the bill will be referred. Upon its decision

we send our sympathies to the author.

Disbelief and Vacillation. — Giacomo Leopardi, an Italian poet, asks two questions, the first of which appeals to skeptics, and the second to vacillating believers in Christian faith. To the former he says —

"Mortality, if thou
Be wholly frail and vile,
Be only dust and shadow, how canst thou
So deeply feel?"

Of the latter he asks —

"And if thou be
Part divine, how canst thou will and thought
By things so poor and base
So easily be swayed and quenched?"

The poet is right. He who affirms that, notwithstanding man's capacities of thought and feeling, he is nothing but dust, stultifies himself. He falls into the ranks of those concerning whom Solomon says: "When he is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom falleth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool." Assuredly he who denies human impiety demonstrates his own folly. And he who, while believing in his immortal birth-right, is constantly forsaking God and trying to shake his thirst from "broken cisterns that can hold no water," is so madly guilty that God exclaims, through Jeremiah, against him, saying, "Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be ye horribly afraid!" To be wise between God and Satan, between purity and sin, is both a daring and a foolish thing.

ZEAL ON FIRE.

"Religious enthusiasm is not good form to-day." The cynical and critical world greet religious zeal with a bold stare and contemptuous shrug of the shoulder. To win its approbation propriety must tone down the earnestness of the preacher and stifle the zeal of the layman. The sinner must not weep over his sins, nor the saint rejoice over his salvation. The ideal is the Indian stoic, who laughs not when happy, weeps not when sorrowful, rejoices not at escape from peril, nor shrieks when hurled to awful death. Alas! the demand for propriety is only in the religious life. Lament over earthly failure, bemoan the frenzy over political success,

surging tides of many a battle the warriors of that ancient house had thought of their crest and stood unyielding. It is a good motto for the young Christian who is exposed to the persecuting taunts of the ungodly. Looking unto Jesus, who never wavered in His conflicts, let him brace himself anew with the girdle of truth and maintain the dignity of his Christian profession, saying, "I scorn to waver!"

Wedding Bells.

In Troy, N. Y., this time, at the home of Rev. J. E. C. Sawyer, pastor of State St. M. E. Church, who needs no introduction to our readers. His daughter, Flora Longfellow, was wedded, on the 29th ult., to Mr. Robert G. Turnick, the father performing the ceremony, assisted by Rev. Geo. W. Brown, of Albany. It was a quiet affair, but many friends of the happy couple remembered them, and the gifts from Chicago, Saratoga, Plattsburgh, Albany and that city, together with those bestowed from the immediate neighborhood, were numerous and costly. ZION'S HERALD offers cordial congratulations.

Does This Mean You?

The Michigan Christian Advocate says most happily what we proposed to say: "If some person or convention thinks you have delivered an extra good sermon or read a superior essay and asks you to send it for publication, don't do it. But give them added evidence of your common sense by sitting down and condensing that sermon or essay into a bright, terse, solid column article. Save just the juicy marrow. We like to get such articles. And the people like to read them. We cannot truthfully say as much for the sermon essay sort that spread out over three or four columns of space. It's not always easy work to boll things down so — not till you get used to it. Try it. If you don't succeed, come around and borrow our patent condenser."

Divorce Reform.

The eighth annual meeting of the National Division Divorce Reform League last week in this city has called fresh attention to this most important sociological problem. The Society reports a prosperous year — thanks, especially, to Rev. S. W. Dike, the corresponding secretary, the magnitude and value of whose work need only to be known to win for him the grateful thanks of all who prize social purity and the integrity of the marriage tie. We have not space for even a synopsis of the work done, but we wish to call attention to two important and encouraging facts: 1. That Col. Wright, of the Bureau of Labor, is engaged in an official collection of the statistics of marriage and divorce throughout the United States, drawing his information, in part, from the centralized records of 2,700 divorce courts, during the period of the last twenty years. Such a report, when completed and issued, will furnish texts for innumerable editorials, essays, sermons, etc., and will form one of the most valuable documents ever issued by the national bureau. Already requests have been filed from abroad for copies of it when published. 2. Congress will be urged to submit a constitutional amendment, which shall do away with existing scandalous diversities in State legislation upon this subject, and substitute therefor a uniform law. It is to be hoped that so important a measure will not be abandoned beneath the multitude of inferior and sectional ones.

Things Sometimes Confounded.

Pride and Vanity. Could you give, off-hand, the precise distinction between them? Do they not seem to run into each other, like the rainbow colors, so that while you know them, you cannot tell just where? Mr. John Morley has been talking to the students of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution about "Aphorisms." He seems to think that Chamfort has caught the right distinction — at any rate, that his aphoristic putting of it is sensible and worth quoting. "A man," says the Frenchman, "has advanced far in the study of morals who has mastered the difference between pride and vanity. The first is lofty, calm, immovable; the second is uncertain, capricious, unquiet. The one adds to a man's stature; the other puffs him out. The one is a source of a thousand virtues; the other is that of nearly all vices and all perversities. There is a kind of pride in which are included all the commandments of God; and a kind of vanity which contains the seven mortal sins." The distinction may be a good one from an ethical stand-point, but the "pride" he talks about is not what passes current among Christian thinkers under that name.

A New Reading Circle.

The "Southland," a name descriptive of its locality as well. It is the Chattanooga idea, with a different and less ambitious course. Instead of a magazine for its organ, the "required readings" will be published jointly and simultaneously in the *Southeastern Christian Advocate* and the *Chattanooga Methodist Advocate*. The course opens with the present year, and consists of "chapters from American history, readings from Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, a tour through Palestine, biographies of great Americans, everyday life, or good morals and manners, Genesis and Matthew. In addition to these, books specially prepared for the Southland Reading Circle treating upon the following subjects will be in the required course of study for the first year: Penmanship, readings from American Literature, Aesop's Fables, and Health. The readings in the *Methodist* and the *Southwestern*, will amount to not less than a column and a half a week, for not less than twenty weeks, and the above-named books will comprise the first year's course of study. The full course can be completed in four years. The name of the Circle monogrammed and consecutively lettered "S. R. C." on a garnet ribbon will be the badge of the circle; the beautiful magnolia printed thereon will be the emblem, and the motto is, "Look Up, and Lift Up."

A Conversazione.

A religio-scientific one. A Wesleyan one. While our young people are forming literary nuclei, the Methodist youth, as well as older people, across the water, are getting social and cultured in the study of science. They have a Wesley Scientific Society, with branches here and there — vigorous branches too. The London branch announced a conversation for the evening of the 15th ult., and the hall in the Mission House was packed.

Leading dealers sell in their choicest apparatus — electrical, optical, philosophical, chemical, etc., and as groups gathered around, the uses of each were explained by experts.

Much valuable information was thus picked up, much inquiry started, much pleasure enjoyed, by the numerous guests of the Society.

— Capt. Franklin Howland, a member of the Massachusetts Senate, acted as chaplain at the opening of the session on Thursday, and Dr. S. L. Gracey, a member of the House, offered the prayer in that body.

— Bishop Foss writes: "Rev. E. S. Stackpole, of the Maine Conference, has been appointed as a missionary to Italy, and will start for his new field at an early day, so as to be present at the session of the Italian Conference in March." What Maine loses, our Italian work gains — one of the brightest and most promising of New England ministers.

during the year, \$7,100 offerings, \$2,494.30; and school-scholarship, \$440; making a grand total of money raised for \$9,240.10. The pastor persons into full membership and by doing this in member's cap for the year. Fifty dollars were received on the day. The present membership is 331, and the members of the Sunday-school is 400. It is just as common now as ever. M. H. A. Evans and Dr. will assist him.

— Rev. C. I. Mills began charge about the first of the year prospered greatly and all the benevolent collections taken one or two meetings, and the apportionments Mills was struck down by the lungs, and impelled to seek a warmer Jacksonville, Fla. He hopes to resume work in the early G. W. Mansfield is supervisor until Conference, and for revival services at an

There was a very large attendance at the first communion service on the first day. Two joined on probation by letter. Union services during the week of prayer.

— Rev. T. C. Martin, the pastor, has issued a neat sheet entitled *Christmas Tide in Anna*, containing a history of the religious societies on Cape Cod, editorials, and selected misadvertisements. The preface calls the Riverdale church the "church of the district in benevolences. The pastor never saw a people give like

There is a subscription paper for one object or another the time, and strange to people enjoy it." For seven church has not raised a cent in suppers, etc. One hundred worth of new books have been placed in the Sunday-school the Christian League starts twenty-three members. The we voted to proceed at once the church preparatory to the annual next year. About \$1,000 was raised for improvements. The church can much-needed improvements to them, and keep up their benevolences, with the pastor's advanced \$150 this year. A collection has been taken once a month, and contributions are all met so far, church Aid for Bay View.

— Bro. Coon is doing a work. He lacks now only \$400 to the needed \$2,800 to pay off debt. He is holding interesting profitable meetings, with the help of former pastors. Bro. Anderson and J. Peterson remain each four days, including with him, visiting the people and meetings.

— Good words come from the people. The meetings are large, and their "conversations" on the parsonage, etc. Sister says Rockport seems more Lowell Church (Central), so much enjoyed their work, they have since served.

— Prospect St. — The six meetings at this church in the conversion of thirty or more parents.

CONFERENCE.

Dec. 4, our and a grand mis- cipleship; subject, "China," the frontispiece, short readings on "Service," and a recitation by nine clergymen, representing various nations, the whole being interspersed by remarks on the general subject. The singing familiar missionary hymns from the Epworth Hymnal by the people was an interesting feature of the service, which was appropriately closed by a good collection for the missionary cause. Dec. 13 and 14 a church fair was held in the vestry. Music, recitations and refreshments were provided, together with fancy articles prepared by the children and young people. The financial results were very satisfactory. On Christmas Eve the Sunday-school and friends gathered in the church, and presents were given from two well-filled trees to the children and others. A gift in money to the faithful pastor and his wife enhanced the gladness of Christmas at the parsonage. The church moves steadily on with a cheerful, harmonious spirit, and the blessing of God in the salvation of souls is that for which the pastor is looking and expecting.

The vestry of the church in Wareham, in place, has issued a neat sheet entitled *Christmas Tide in Anna*, containing a history of the religious societies on Cape Cod, editorials, and selected misadvertisements. The preface calls the Riverdale church the "church of the district in benevolences. The pastor never saw a people give like

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Providence District.

The church at South and East Braintree very kindly remembered their pastor and his family at their Christmas tree festival. Interesting exercises interspersed by Christmas carols were given by the Sunday-school scholars. A bountiful collation was freely distributed to all present. The pastor and family were again remembered in a New Year's visit to their home in South Braintree, Jan. 2. Some sixty members and parishioners gave a pleasant surprise. The dining-room table was quickly loaded with numerous packages of household provisions, including a monster turkey. An enjoyable evening was spent. The pastor and wife desire to thank their many friends. The church, in both branches of its membership, is enjoying refreshments of the Holy Spirit. Several persons of mature years have recently accepted of saving grace.

S.

Norwich District.

New London. — At the last communion service, the pastor, Rev. J. E. Hawkins, received two persons on probation. The church has been greatly edified during the present pastorate. Swiftly have passed the years of Bro. Hawkins' ministry. The Christmas entertainments, on two successive evenings, were very enjoyable. Among those surprised with valuable presents were the organist, superintendent, and the teacher of the primary class, Mrs. B. P. Bushnell, who more than thirty years ago established the class, and still, though over seventy years of age, is at her post.

— At the Christmas gathering, Mrs. Noon, the pastor's wife, presented with a beautiful dinner set; and the trustees of the society were presented with the interest notes, in all amounting to \$30. A gift was a present to them.

Arthur Hamilton, who at times has remembered the society in a similar manner. The spiritual interests of the church are encouraging.

Two joined on probation, two baptized, and one joined in full.

— Christmas was pleasantly

and by appropriate church services and Sunday-school celebration, a chicken-supper was served after which two heavily-dressed were stripped of their fruit.

Franklin County Evangelical Alliance was held in Conway the last December. Excellent papers read, one of which was by Rev. Simmle, of Greenfield.

— Rev. H. H. Paine, pastor, issued a very neat and interesting New Year's greeting to his friends and congregation. The arrangements for each event the week of prayer was thus announced. These services were

noon and evening.

with a magnificent revolving silver ice pitcher by friends in Attawagan. The little folks were especially remembered with presents both useful and ornamental. The Attawagan and Ballouville Star lecture course, just closed, has been a rare and rich literary and musical feast. The net profit to the church of the lecture course is \$77.00. The week of prayer was observed by the church and with good results. Seven persons have requested prayers of Christians and the church greatly quickened. The pastor and people are much encouraged. The special revival services will continue another week.

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MAINE CONFERENCE.

The church at Winthrop, Rev. T. F. Jones, pastor, is enjoying a healthy religious growth, and is abundant in signs of prosperity. There have been a few recent and very interesting cases of backsliders reclaimed—prodigals "coming to themselves," and returning to "Father's house." Miss Yates recently spent a few weeks in Winthrop, laboring under the auspices of the W. C. T. U., making addresses at the village and at Baileyville, in the interests of temperance, religion and village improvements. She gave an address in the M. E. Church on her favorite theme of missions, especially the W. F. M. S. work. An auxiliary of the W. F. M. S. was formed, with a dozen or more members. She also formed a "Y" in Winthrop and Baileyville. The pastor is working the disciplinary plan of missions, and takes a collection monthly in the Sunday-school. They aim for their proportion of the \$1,200,000. The Sunday-school collection last Sabbath, under the inspiration of a brief address by Presiding Elder Clark on missions, was \$9. The presiding elder's visit was a great inspiration. Two were baptized at Plainfield, and six received in full membership. The pastor and family were generously remembered at Christmas in money and other gifts to the value of \$40. Extra meetings are in progress, with hopes of a glorious revival.

Rev. A. W. Pottle, of Saco, baptized six persons last Sabbath, and received three into full connection. Fifteen were announced as received on probation. The church units in union services this week in the observance of the week of prayer.

A convention of the W. F. M. Society of Dover District was held at Haverhill, Mass., Tuesday, Dec. 13. The day sessions were in Grace Church, and the evening at Wearey. The new secretary, Mrs. C. W. Taylor, who had arranged the meeting, was unable, on account of illness, to be present; but her plans were so complete that it was easy to proceed with the program. Mrs. C. U. Dunning presided. Mrs. Mudge and Miss Cushman also were present, and aided by participating in the discussions. The half-hour devotional service was conducted by Mrs. G. S. Littlefield. Mrs. Wells welcomed the ladies in a very cordial address, to which Mrs. Dunning responded. The rest of the forenoon was given to reports from the various auxiliaries. At noon a fine lunch was served in Wesley Church vestry by ladies of both societies. At 2 o'clock P. M., Mrs. Oscar Barrows led in devotions. A paper was read by Mrs. J. M. Durrell entitled, "A Model Auxiliary," followed by a free discussion of methods of organization and work. Mrs. H. B. Legro read an excellent paper on "Woman's Work for Woman." Mrs. C. J. Fowler gave practical and useful suggestions on "Children's Bands." Next followed the question-box, over which Miss Cushman presided. Mrs. C. W. Nutter stirred all hearts with her striking portrayal of "Woman's Responsibility in Missions." The closing essay was by Mrs. Littlefield on "Lessons we may Learn from the Heathen." In the evening a large audience assembled who listened with great interest to the address by Mrs. Mudge on "Domestic Life in India." The Chinese school, under the direction of Miss Cushman, followed. During the day and evening a neat sum was raised for the work, and Mrs. Taylor was made a life member of the W. F. M. S.

The church at North Portland observed Christmas with the usual tree and concert. The pastor, Rev. E. W. Kennison, and wife, received useful and ornamental have come in, while the monetary gifts have been so numerous and reached such an amount that, for the good of the pastor, we refrain from giving it publicity. The meetings in this church are increasing in interest and spirituality.

If Christmas presents are any indication of popular esteem, Rev. J. G. Gammons, of Bourne, has reached that dangerous altitude. The presents have been lavished upon him and his family as never before; articles useful and ornamental have come in, while the monetary gifts have been so numerous and reached such an amount that, for the good of the pastor, we refrain from giving it publicity. The meetings in this church are increasing in interest and spirituality.

The Maine Union Holiness Association is holding its January session this week with the Methodist society at South Portland, Rev. T. P. Adams, pastor.

The friends of Rev. G. R. Palmer, of Augusta, are urging his appointment to the chaplaincy of the Soldiers' Home at Togus. This has been long held by Episcopalian clergymen.

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In most of our churches appropriate Christmas and New Year's services were preached, and the Sunday-schools had Christmas celebrations of much interest and profit to the children.

We are glad to hear that one of our excellent pastors, not very remote from New Bedford, received a beautiful Christmas gift, Dec. 25, in the form of a daughter. We congratulate the happy parents.

X. Y. Z.

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School.

LESSON IV.

Sunday, January 22.

Matt. 15: 21-31.

BY W. O. HOLWAY, U. S. N.

JESUS AND THE AFFLICTED.

I. The Lesson Introduced.

1. GOLDEN TEXT: "Many among you afflicted I let him pray" (James 5: 18).

2. DATE: A. D. 29 April.

3. PLACES: The district of Tyre and Sidon and Decapolis, east and southeast of the Sea of Galilee.

4. PARALLEL NARRATIVE: Mark 7: 24-37.

5. CONNECTION: Our Lord's discourse at Capernaum, in which, alluding to the miracle of feeding the multitude, He declared Himself the bread of life (John 6: 22-71), and His visit which followed it; His discourse to the Pharisees on ceremonial pollution (Matt. 15: 1-20).

HOME READINGS.

Monday. Jesus and the afflicted, Matt. 15: 21-31.

Tuesday. Faith rewarded, Luke 7: 10.

Wednesday. Earnestness in prayer, Luke 11: 13.

Thursday. Humility in prayer, Luke 18: 9-14.

Friday. Christ's mission to the troubled, Luke 4: 14-42.

Saturday. Testimony of miracles, Luke 7: 16-23.

Sunday. Comfort for the afflicted, Isa. 35.

II. The Lesson Story.

The desire to escape for a season as well from the incessant demands upon His compassion as from the malice of the Pharisees, led to our Lord's abrupt departure with His disciples from the shores of the Galilean Sea to the confines of heathendom. He went to the "region of Tyre and Sidon," and sought seclusion in a house, hoping to avoid notice. But it was immediately made evident that He "could not be hid." His fame had preceded Him, and a woman of the district, who had a daughter "grievously vexed with a spirit," found Him. She had no drouth, either in her religion or race or place, to base her plea; but no one could heal her afflicted daughter but Jesus, and He was at hand, and she had faith that He would not deny the pleadings of a mother's heart. So she invaded His privacy, and with gestures and words of passionate entreaty, begged Him mercifully to interpose and heal her child.

Strange to say Jesus listened to her in utter silence. "He answered her not a word." He who had never before closed His ears to the cry of distress seemed to be stolid to this pitiful supplication. When at last the distressed woman implored with her importunate cries and the public attention which they excited, begged Him to dismiss her, He opened His lips, but only to utter the words of chilling exclusiveness, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But her maternal love was not to be disappointed in this way. She only drew nearer, and falling before Him cried piteously, "Lord, help me!" Still her suit was denied: "Let the children first be satisfied, for it is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it to the dogs." Even this rude rebuff did not drive her away. With incomparable humility and mental quickness she made use of it to extort what she asked: "Yes, Lord; even the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs." And then the agony of suspense, prolonged either for the woman's or the disciples' sake, was ended. The prayer, which He probably all along intended to grant, was answered. Her faith was commended, and she was dismissed with the charge, which was verified as soon as she reached her home, that "the devil was gone out" of her daughter.

It is hastening, God is rolling

an awful sweep and force. He

is half a century of opportunities

in bringing the world together,

which may compass, know it,

and hundred-fold quicker and better

than in former generations. Competent

authorities assume that in five

years we are to go to war and

go in all discomfort and

anxiety of our modern civilization

not such facts as the voice of

the prophet of the cloud to His people

—Missionary Review.

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The stationed ministers of our church will please remember that we depend on them to take care of ZION'S HERALD on their charges. No special agents are sent out to canvass. Doubtless new names could be added to the list, by a little personal effort in every church. Several ministers write that their personal efforts in this direction have been rewarded by unexpected success in obtaining new names. The New Year has come, and it is now a favorable time to push the HERALD. We hope to hear from those who have thus far been silent.

The Week.

AT HOME.

— There was over \$483,000,000 in the treasury January 1.

— A cut-down of 10 per cent. is ordered on the Goudy system of railways.

— The Old Ocean Marine Insurance Company of Portland, Me., will cease doing business. The Washington Fire and Marine Insurance Company of this city also is going out of business, and is reinsuring its risks in other companies.

— William Hammond, one of the oldest engineers on the Maine Central Road, was run over and killed at Brunswick, Me.

— The President has issued a proclamation forbidding settlement or purchase of the land between the north and south forks of the Re River.

— The cases of all implicated in the murder of Rev. Mr. Haddock of Sioux City have been dismissed.

— The Chicago dealers in dressed and canned meats, claiming that the interstate law is unconstitutional, have decided to sue for withheld rebates amounting to \$950,000.

— Ashbury Park, N. J., is greatly excited over the murder, by unknown persons, of Robert Hamilton, A. J. Drexel's confidential servant.

— The record of business failures for the year 1887 shows a decrease of 200 in number, but an increase in liabilities of \$53,000.

— A priest's house in New Brighton, Pa., was entered by robbers last week. They failed to get many valuables and maltreated the priest. Two of the fellows were afterward arrested.

— From the report of the Secretary of the Commonwealth it appears that the valuation of the property in this State for taxation is estimated at nearly two billions, an increase of more than eighty five millions as compared with 1886. The total number of male polls assessed in 552,833, a gain of 19,258.

— A special from Salida, Col., says: "The most disastrous conflagration in the history of Salida occurred on the 2d. Twenty-one houses were destroyed in the business portion of the town. The loss is estimated at \$200,000, with insurance of about one-third."

— The Reading Railroad has passed out of the receiver's hands. The strike on the road has collapsed, and the miners in the anthracite region hold out firmly.

— Among the deaths the past week were the following: H. D. Morse, esq., the well-known diamond-cutter and dealer in this city; W. E. Baker, of the Grover & Baker sewing-machine firm; Rev. Dr. I. P. Langworthy, an eminent Congregational minister; Ex-Gov. Joel Parker, of New Jersey; Dr. J. R. Nichols, the founder of the *Journal of Chemistry*; William Parsons, the well-known lecturer; and Professor Bonamy Price, of England, an eminent political economist.

LEGISLATIVE.

— The members elect of the Massachusetts legislature of 1888 met at the State House, qualified and organized. Hon. H. J. Boardman and Hon. C. J. Noyes were unanimously re-elected president of the senate and speaker of the house respectively. E. H. Clapp was re-elected clerk of the senate and E. A. McLaughlin of the house, both unanimously. Capt. J. G. B. Adams was unanimously re-elected sergeant-at-arms. The ceremonies of inauguration were successfully carried out. Both branches assembled in joint convention and listened to the reading of the governor's inaugural. The oath of office was administered to the governor, lieutenant-governor, and the executive council. The first meeting of the executive council of 1888 was held. The governor announced the list of committees.

CONGRESSIONAL.

— Both branches of Congress re-assembled. The event of the first day in the senate was Mr. Sherman's speech on the tariff and the surplus, which was replied to by Mr. Voorhees. In the house the day was passed in the introduction of bills and resolutions. Over 900 were introduced and referred. Among the latter was one inquiring into the land business of the Pacific railways and one inquiring into the battle-flag exchange. Mr. Dingley introduced a bill to prohibit States to prohibit the importation of liquor and also one to prohibit ocean riffs. On the 6th, Indian bills were introduced by Mr. Dawes; a measure providing for a world's exposition at Washington in 1892 was offered by Mr. Hoar; Mr. Mitchell advocated a naval station on the Pacific; and the Blaine education bill was begun. In the house Speaker Carlisle announced the committees, and the house adjourned till Monday.

ABROAD.

— Spain will set apart \$100,000 a year for the Columbus celebration in 1892.

— Professor Virchow; in his new work, declares that cancer is curable.

— The Peter's pence collected at the jubilee mass in Rome on the 2d amounted to \$400,000.

— Mr. John Morley has gone to Torquay to recuperate.

— Three thousand villages in China have been engulfed in the terrible floods of the Hoang Ho.

— By a collision on the Dutch State Railway twenty-six persons were killed and many injured.

— On the Canadian Pacific four men were killed, \$180,000 worth of damage was done, and traffic was stopped two days by a collision.

— The projected national celebrations on the occasion of the silver wedding of

the Prince and Princess of Wales include a public holiday and court and public fêtes.

— A sharp shock of earthquake was felt in the city of Mexico on the 2d, at 7:30 o'clock. During the last three months there have been seismic disturbances throughout the country.

— The Alhambra theatre at Antwerp has been destroyed by fire. The theatre was a vast structure.

— Ex-Empress Eugenie has ordered the removal of the remains of Napoleon III and the Prince Imperial from Chislehurst to Farnborough.

— The Birmingham Canal burst at a point near Dudley, and hundreds of families were rendered homeless by the inundation.

— The Mexican gunboat "Democra" is said to have recently removed over 1,000 Indians from the Yaqui River territory and taken them to Coahuila, where they are dying of fever.

— A Nationalist demonstration at Birr on the 6th was attended by 6,000 persons. Several members of Parliament were present.

— A violent hurricane raged in the Irish Channel. Several wrecks, with heavy loss of life, are reported, among them that of the American ship "Alfred D. Snow," with all on board.

— It is reported that cholera has increased to an alarming extent at Valparaiso, the number of cases daily reaching 130, of which 80 to 90 prove fatal.

— Heribert, the French Ambassador at Berlin, to assure Emperor William that while he remains at the head of the Republic no French Government will be permitted to adopt a warlike policy.

— Godfrey Brown, minister of foreign affairs at Honolulu, has handed in his resignation to the king. It has been accepted, but his successor is yet to be named. Premier Green's resignation is expected to follow.

— An official reduction of judicial rents throughout practically the whole of Ireland, ranging from 6 to 22 per cent. has been ordered. The aggregate reduction is estimated at £2,000,000. The reduction is permanent and applies to arrears since 1881.

— The eight nihilists, including the Cossack Tschernoff, who were condemned to death for making an attempt upon the life of the Czar during his visit to the Don Cossack country, were hanged at St. Petersburg on January 2.

— (Continued from Page 5.)

five times, and I stoutly affirm that there was no occasion for such snubbing as I have received at the hands of some of our bishops.

— Allow me to conclude this medley by introducing "a question of privilege. In the "History of Methodism in Maine," I have the credit of writing up the history of the First Church in Bangor. There are some things in that history that I should not wish to further. I have nothing to say in reference to the correctness of that history, or as to the propriety of the record; but the simple facts in the case are these. I engaged a member of the church who can write a good deal better than I can (this is not intended as a compliment!), to copy the history as it was written in the church records long before I went to Bangor. This copy I sent to Bro. Phillips for him to use as he saw fit. It was perfectly natural for him to give me the credit of it; but I was not the historian of that church. It is due to myself that I make this explanation.

— Now, Mr. Editor, permit me to add to this other word. We Down Easters have been greatly pleased with your editorial management of the good old HERALD; we shall part with you with sincere regret, and ever hold you in kindest remembrance. May your kindle fall upon your successor, and God's best blessings fall upon you and yours!

— Dec. 19.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Civil Service Reform is a subject of great importance to all persons interested in the theory of government, and especially of popular government; and as it affects every citizen of this country, the Massachusetts Civil Service Reform League takes the liberty of addressing the public on the general subject.

The non-elective civil service of the country, including that of the Federal, State and Municipal Governments, represents an expenditure for salaries of about \$200,000,000 a year. That of the State of Massachusetts and its twenty-two cities (including only those offices under the civil service rules), represents salaries in the aggregate of over \$5,000,000 a year.

Our reform seeks to institute a system of selection that is open, fair and free to all, in place of a system which depends upon personal acquaintance with men of influence, and frequently a system of paying debts for personal political services with public offices, and sometimes of organizing to control caucuses and conventions, regardless of the public welfare, for the sole purpose of getting public appointments, and aptly called the "patronage" or "spoils" system.

The method used in Civil Service Reform,

and the best yet invented, is open competition in those tests that show the qualifications for the positions sought. Written examinations, so largely used, have hitherto been associated almost wholly with school and college, and theoretical subjects, so that at first it is hard to appreciate that they can be made fair tests of fitness for practical work, but an inspection of the records and printed reports of the Civil Service Commission in Massachusetts (Office of Pennington Square, Boston) will show that they may be made so. These printed reports can be obtained of the Commission, or by addressing the Secretary of the League.

It is objected that this system is English and aristocratic. As to that, the system prevailing in England at the time of the American Revolution was the patronage system. Under that old system the chief offices were controlled by the great aristocratic families. The reform which began about 1850 was a movement on behalf of the common people of England, and was resisted by those families who had up to that time the monopoly of the offices, and the present reformed system is most popular among the great mass of people there, who now have a fair opportunity of getting the offices under conditions that make them subservient to no man for his gift or influence.

Under the reformed civil service, sons of poor men, without social or political influence, have an equal opportunity with the rich and prominent of getting appointments, depending solely on their own character and ability.

It has been objected that boys fresh from school and college could pass the best examination, and get all the places. With nearly three years' experience in Massachusetts, it has been found that the average age of those

who have passed is not that of the school-boy, but of persons with practical experience. For the clerical service it is over thirty years, and for prison service thirty-six years, while ninety-eight per cent. have had only a common school education. The explanation of this surprising fact is, that the questions asked are not such as school books alone without practical experience will enable one to answer. For example, in a recent examination paper, candidates for foremen of laborers in streets, squares and public parks were asked, among other questions, "How much should a sidewalk pitch; and how high should it be as regards the street grade?" "2'-5"; thus: "3'-7"; thus: "3'-9"?" "What materials should be used for tamping in loading?" &c., &c.; very necessary questions for a foreman of street and park laborers to know, but which would puzzle the brightest school-boy or collegian to answer.

Various rumors have been circulated as to absurd questions asked by the Commission. Every one of these rumors that comes to our ears has been followed up, and they have all been found to be baseless. For example, it has been stated in former debates in the Massachusetts Legislature, that the distance from Liverpool to New York was asked.

As to the present condition of the veteran question in Massachusetts it may be briefly said that all the former privileges and preferences still remain in full force, while in addition, the appointing officer may select any veteran, no matter where he stands after examination, or even if he has not been examined at all, provided only he has been ascertained by the Commission to be in reality an honorably discharged veteran, and to have the same good moral character that the law requires of all applicants for appointment.

R. H. DANA,
Secy of the Mass. Civil Service Reform League
30 COURT STREET, BOSTON.
January 7th, 1888.

or carelessness in copying, or incorrect addition; in case of a policeman it means perhaps inability to describe familiar localities, or weaker physical development and the like.

It has been suggested that the reform takes away the interest in politics. Where the reform has been tried, it has to be sure diminished the great struggle for appointments, but, by lessening the power of political rings, it has given to the great mass of citizens more weight in the selection of their representatives, and has greatly increased the general interest in the political questions of the day.

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30 COURT STREET, BOSTON.
January 7th, 1888.

The immense demand for the Harvard Medical Shoe has absorbed the entire stock of lamb's wool wadding of some of Boston's largest houses.

A PURPLE COCOA. — The breakfast cocoa prepared by Messrs. W. Baker & Co., Dorchester, is generally recommended by physicians as the only fitting drink for the morning meal. This advice specially applies to invalids, for whom no question in History or Geography is now asked under the Massachusetts Commission. In 1885 an examination paper had a few questions in U. S. History and Geography, but they did not count in the marking or grading, and no such questions have been asked since.

Again, no little misunderstanding has been caused by failing to notice that the kinds of questions are wholly different for different positions. There is not one set, or even two or three sets of examination papers, but, on the contrary, there are many different kinds as there are sorts of employment.

For example, the question asked applicants for draw-tenders as to the proper way of letting a vessel through the draw with the tide, would not be a fair test for clerical work.

Questions as to the elevators, fire escapes, and the regulation of machinery for safety of the employees asked the district police to inspect factories, public buildings, &c., would not be proper to ask a foreman in the paving department; while questions as to the proper crowning and macadamizing of streets, asked the latter, would be absurd to put to an applicant for labor no educational examination, not even writing one's own name, is required.

The Commissioners have succeeded admirably, with three years' experience, in adapting the questions to the kind of work required, and this has been accomplished largely by asking the heads of the departments what kind of work and qualifications are needed; and it should not be forgotten that an important part of the system is that six months of probationary employment in the duties of the office are required before final appointment.

Different weight is given to the same subjects in examinations for different positions. For example, spelling and hand-writing, count a good deal in the examination for clerks, while for police service, experience, physical qualifications, knowledge of police duties, &c., have the most weight, and very little is attached to writing provided it is fairly legible.

A careful system has been adopted for ascertaining the character and experience of all applicants. This is made a part of the Commission's written records and therefore is much more reliable than the usual verbal or private recommendations, and have hitherto been adopted for obtaining future knowledge of character. (See new rules approved by the Governor, November 9, 1887.)

It has sometimes been suggested that any one who had passed the examination might be appointed without regard to relative standing, instead of selecting from the three highest.

Bearing in mind that the great object of the reform is the abolition of the patronage or spoils system by means of some fair method of selection, it becomes clear that allowing appointments to be made from any of the large number of those who passed the minimum would not accomplish the desired result. Such a system, called "pass examinations," has been fully tried in the United States, England and Canada, but did not cure the evil. The practical result was that a "worker" of the political "boss" was sent to be examined. If he passed, he got the office. If he failed, pressure was brought to bear upon him to make him examination easier, while few others cared to apply for examination, as they could never get appointed. Influence was still the key to official appointment, and political power was the surest way to get and hold that influence. In fact, except for shutting out the utterly incompetent, the "spoils system" continued in full force.

It is a true fact that the surest way to get and hold that influence is to be a good foreman, and very little is attached to writing provided it is fairly legible.

Another thing of great importance to the people is the "Nervous Tonic" of Dr. Green's Nervous Tonic. It is purely vegetable. It contains no mineral salts, no injurious drugs, and may, therefore, be taken by children or the most delicate and feeble invalids with perfect confidence and assurance of cure. Heretofore, most of the nerve remedies have been composed of such dangerous drugs that their after effects left the patient in a much worse condition than before using. We are glad to say that no such danger need be apprehended from the use of Dr. Green's Nervous Tonic, which, being a positive tonic, is perfectly safe.

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